

From: Jeremiah and Annika Foster
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/9/01 8:58pm
Subject: Microsoft penalty

Dear Sir,

I am writing today to express my heartfelt conviction that Microsoft is a monopoly that is suffocating innovation in the software industry.

I also feel that Microsoft's proposal to supply equipment to schools in our nation to bridge the "digital divide" in lieu of court-imposed fines is yet another attempt to get market share from Microsoft's rivals. At MIT, where I work, there is a strict policy; no one may accept gifts from computer companies. This policy allows decisions on purchasing to be made without bias. This policy would be an excellent one for the nation's schools as well, and would preclude a gift of Microsoft software to these schools. Instead Microsoft could arrange for an endowment for technology which would enable lower income schools to keep pace with their better supplied brethren. The monetary award could be given to different schools each year depending on their particular needs. They would apply for it, as if it were a grant, then use the money to purchase equipment best suited for their particular goals, from any company they choose. This would allow many companies to compete for the market, making for a freer marketplace where innovation and efficiency are rewarded and not size and brute force.

Thank you for your time and understanding in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah Foster
Somerville MA.